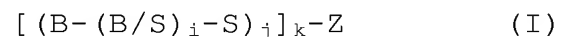
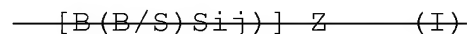


**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, lines 8-21, as follows:

--Copolymers that may be used in this invention are preferably selected from the group consisting of linear, radial, perfect and partially randomized block copolymers corresponding to funeral formula (I)



wherein ~~i and~~ i, j and k are ~~integers~~ an integer equal to or greater than 1;

Z is a residue of a coupling agent or a termination agent;

S is a vinyl aromatic monomer; and

B is a conjugated diene;

and where the elastomeric portion (alkadiene) may be totally or partially hydrogenated. The S/B copolymer composition is from 10/90 to 90/10, preferably 20/80 to 80/20, and more preferably 30/70 to 40/60. Molecular weights of copolymer can be between the interval 100,000 to 450,000 g/mol. The molecular weight of the vinyl aromatic monomer-based polymer block ranges between the interval of 5,000 to 420,000 g/mol, preferably 30,000 to 120,000 g/mol, and the vinyl aromatic monomer block presents a polydispersity Mw/Mn

at the interval of 1.01 to 4. Copolymers with the afore-  
outlined molecular parameters are preferably obtained through  
anionic polymerization; but any other polymerization method  
may be indistinctly used and which leads to the formation of  
copolymers with the desired characteristics.--